

Baptist Record

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GEO. WHARTON, EDITOR.
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Editorial.

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION.

The Convention met on Wednesday morning, July 23, at 10 o'clock, in the upper story of the court-house. A good though not a large delegation. The eastern side of the State not so well represented as the western. The court-house will hold three or four hundred, is an excellent place for the meeting.

Devotional exercises conducted by Eld. J. W. Bozeman, opened by singing "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name." Prayer by Eld. M. P. Lowrey. Bro. Bozeman read from the 15th chapter of John: "I am the vine, my father is the husbandman."

Bro. W. H. Hardy then took the chair and the Convention proceeded to organize.

We have several distinguished visitors present. There is Dr. Bittling, who represents the Bible department of the American Baptist Publication Society, and Bro. David, just returned as missionary from Lagos, Africa. Dr. Teasdale and Rev. E. C. Gates, are here from Tennessee; and Dr. Tichenor.

A drummer on the train remarked, "you have a fine band of men," and now as we glance around the house we say the drummer was right; not all handsome men, but earnest, wide awake men. We welcome Bro. Bailey, of Aberdeen, to our midst.

President W. H. Hardy delivered his address. He spoke earnestly and warmly upon the subject of co-operation, which he zealously advocated. The address was able and well timed. As it will appear in the Record, we withhold further comment.

The Convention then proceeded to the election of officers, which resulted as follows: W. H. Hardy, President; H. P. Spores, Secretary; and J. T. Buck, Cor. Sec.; W. T. Ratliff, Treasurer. After singing "Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone," delegates representing various bodies were received. Convention then adjourned for dinner.

EVENING SESSION.

Convention met, President Hardy in the chair. Dr. C. G. Bittling, Bible Secretary of the American Baptist Publication Society, located at Philadelphia, then addressed the Convention. He comes as the Bible Secretary not of a section but of the whole country. He is from the South and a friend and brother. The object of the Society is to distribute the word of God, free gratis, if necessary, to all the States and Societies. We aim at oneness that grows out of having one object. The truth is inexorable and has no compromise. It is straight as the beams of the sun. The reason why we stand aloof from other denominations is because they have forced us.

Again and again we have made efforts to join them. To-day no Baptist organization, no Baptist Missionary, can obtain any help from the American Bible Society. It is all put and no call to use a Wall Street term. They receive all we give, but give back nothing. Why is this? Look backward. Wm. Carey translated the Scriptures into the Bengali tongue and to-day that translation is accepted. Dr. Judson gave the Burmese Scriptures, and to-day it is the accepted version. So Dr. Martin's translation into the Chinese tongue. Baptists have given the Scriptures to more than one third of the world. The Universal scholarship of the world stands by us in our translation of immortality.

If we wish the world to get the Scriptures unimpaired, we must give them to the world. When Dr. Smith Sheldon, the last Baptist who remained with the American Bible Society, was asked if the Baptists could get any help, he said, "I am utterly hopeless."

The Bible is an old book, just as old as the bread we eat, but just as necessary.

The union of the Baptists is the strongest in the world bound by the word of God, linked by the Spirit of the Bible into oneness. We love the same Bible, the same truth.

Baptists are like cocoa grass. Cut the cocoa down to-day, to-morrow it will be up again. Lay the Bible as the foundation of every work. Pull this out and the hopes of the world go out in midnight darkness. Put the Bible as the corner stone. He then stated that although the Society had given the Baptists of Mississippi 6,000 books they had received nothing in return. On motion a collection was taken up and the brethren showed their endorsement of the

work, by cheerfully giving.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT.
The Convention assembled to hear the introductory sermon, preached by Eld. A. A. Lomax, text, Romans, 11 Chapter, 13 verse "I magnify my office." We expected something good and were not disappointed.

The speaker explained the meaning and application of the terms applied to ministers and urged the great importance of the work. Bro. J. J. W. Mathis, the pastor, welcomed the Convention to the hospitality of the good people and brethren of Kosciusko. These hearty words of welcome were mostly ably seconded by the kindness of Bro. Mathis and his people in entertaining the Convention.

THURSDAY MORNING.
Devotional exercises were conducted by Bro. Lipsey. There are, said he, about 30,000 promises in the Bible. Each brother gave one of these promises, until many fell like benedictions upon the worshippers.

The morning exercises were characterized by a devotional spirit and the presence of the Lord was felt by his people. Prayer by brethren Pettigrew and Teasdale.

At 9 o'clock Bro. Hardy took the chair. A communication was received from the Springfield Association, requesting that a committee be appointed from the Baptist State Convention and from the General Association to confer in reference to co-operation between these bodies. He stated that the same request had been presented to the General Association, and had been refused. A resolution was presented by Bro. Buck, that the Convention disapprove the opening of the Exposition at N. O., on the Sabbath day. Speeches by brethren Bozeman, Carroll, Whitfield, Lomax and others. The resolution was carried.

A resolution was introduced by Bro. E. B. Miller, that this body extend a hearty invitation to Bro. Penn, of Texas, to come over and labor in our State. He stated that it was a difficult thing to get him. He would not come upon any stipulated salary; he raises that out of the field. He will come nowhere except directly invited by the church. Bro. Julius Berry seconded Bro. Miller's endorsement of Bro. Penn. He presents the gospel distinctly and plainly. You forget the man, but remember the truth. He has a wonderful voice, faith, imagination. He speaks with authority. It is sincerely hoped that this brother, so eminent in leading souls to Christ, will visit our State at his earliest convenience.

The report of the Board of Trustees of Mississippi College was read by President W. S. Webb. God has been our strength. He suffered loss in Bro. Timberlake's death. Two students also removed by death. Besides this, we had to contend with the measles. There is a brighter side, secured Bro. Rowe, who has given eminent satisfaction. God gave us a gracious revival. Will raise \$1,000 for repairing the buildings, \$600 raised now. Faculty, Trustees and Alumni, have this as their special work. An agent will be continued. The College needs solid endowment. Sister Ratliff has \$600 in hand for the ministers' cottage. The deficit in paying College expenses less than last year's contributions greater but tuition less. Bro. Leavell has done well. Bro. Gambrell has called upon to make the first speech. He said, the College for years has been needing something. The wants are presented every year. Nobody is getting rich by it, certainly not the Professors. Is it worth while to pay out? We might give up and sell the brick, and give to missions. A man who knows something is in a better condition to do something than he who does not know. After all the learning we can get, we will still be weak enough to give the Lord a chance to work through our weakness. We ought to give the College up entirely, or take hold with both hands.

We all get good from the schools and Universities. Let Baptists not say a word against any school. We get good from Pseudo-Baptists Schools. They multiply the number of useful men. Colleges are worth more to the business of our country than they cost. What about denominational schools? An educated Christian is the most useful Christian, Lawyer, Doctor, or Schoolmaster.

Our College makes earnest workers. Educational work stands at the foundation both in time and importance. We have done well considering that we have done so little, a splendid accident.

We ought to love that passage, "the Lord preserveth the simple." We have been so simple. The work is slow illustrated by getting an iron safe up a hill. Give money or give up the College. There is such a thing as trying to pray money out of others when we ought to give ourselves. A rich man wanted to pray for a small amount the church

needed. Mr. Moody said, "Do not disturb the Lord about that little business, give it yourself." Some say, "I did give." Yes, you ate dinner yesterday, you will eat again to-day. No College can be sustained by tuition alone.

Brother Lowrey spoke as follows: If there is one subject he would rather speak on than others, it is the College. The wants of our families, like the wants of our families, are always before us. The College is our own. God has given it to us. It is doing good. Is not education sometimes a curse? It makes one stronger. Some colleges send young men home, worse than when they left, gamblers, drunkards, etc. It is a serious question whether a boy ought to be sent to a school where there is no Christian influence.

I love our College because the Faculty, Trustees and many young men are Christians. Educated brains rule the world. All the interests of the country are controlled by educated men. I have sent three sons to Mississippi College; three more to send.

Boys ought to be educated that it is honorable to work. An educated man can cut a better ditch than an uneducated one. Why do so many boys leave the farm? Because fathers disgust them with farming. The educated country boys rule the world. They bring energy and economy. In all the commercial centers, they lead. It is not necessary to have a boy at school all the time. Send one all the time, let another work two-thirds of his time, the latter will beat. He has practical, common sense. Send your boys to Mississippi College.

Brother Webb spoke as follows: Every man thinks the work he has in hand the most important. Mississippi College is our most important work, had better give up Home, Foreign missions, everything, before the College. See what the College has done for Foreign Missions, in Brethren Eager, David, Joiner, Madison University for the first 10 years sent out 1500 ministers, 80 of whom were sent to foreign fields. There was spent during this time about \$400,000. Could this have been better expended for missions? Is not the College worthy of your gifts?

Dr. Tichenor said: In the South we have about two millions, white and black; one half look to the Baptists for enlightenment. I question whether state education has always been twin sisters. Only in latter days have they been separated. Why? Because the pressure brought by Baptists forced the states to separate religion and politics, and in the separation, religion was left with the wrong side, politics. It is part of the grand work of the word of God to elevate the masses. This you cannot do without colleges. You will have to endow your College with \$200,000. In 20 years with \$500,000. Suppose you turn it over to the Methodists or Catholics. They will take it upon one condition, that you educate your sons there. Would you do it? Ruin to your denomination would follow. Somebody is going to educate your sons and daughters. If you allow the other denominations to do so, they will take the cream out of them.

The speaker here pictured a home in the country, where negligence and sloth had brought desolation to the material interests and had crushed hope from the heart of the wife and brought discouragement to the son, sending him away to a city to seek employment. I pity the boy that goes out from home without sweet memories to link him to the spot where he was reared. With these he can baffle temptation, but without them, he drifts away. You can not afford to stop your efforts.

Thursday evening, at 3:30 o'clock Convention was called to order by President Hardy. Prayer by Rev. J. H. Whitfield.

Rev. Bolen, Secretary of the Home Mission Board, of the colored Baptists was introduced by Bro. Webb. Bro. Bolen is from Columbus, is a man of influence among his brethren. He spoke to this effect. He felt highly honored to come before this body in behalf of the State Mission Board. He had labored 12 years in Mississippi, 10 of these in Columbus. As early as '67 he undertook to organize the colored people in the State. In '69, the first Association in East Mississippi was organized. In '72, at Columbus, was organized the General Association of the State. This Association owed money. Had two missionaries, but did not pay them off. We have now forty or fifty Associations, about 60,000 members in the General Association. A collection was taken up at the close of his speech, amounting to about \$31.

Committee on Publications recommended the Bible, the Baptist Record, (wherever the Record goes, the Baptists are better developed), Kind Words, Foreign Missionary

Journal, The Little Missionary. The report was amended by inserting a clause referring those who desired information in regard to the General Association to the Southern Baptist.

Brother Gambrell spoke as follows: The Record has not a good location. A large part of the support of any paper comes from its advertisements. We lack commercial surroundings. There are two ways of looking at a thing: 1st. A sentimental way. 2d. With judgment. Sentiment says, publish the paper at your own door. Judgment says, publish it where it ought to be. Look at New Orleans. It is the news and business center of the great Mississippi Valley. A great railroad center, and hence the best distributing point. It ought to be located where it would be on the most solid base. It would, of course, do the New Orleans work some good but I am not willing to decide from a mere local standpoint. If the inevitable course of papers to gravitate towards the center, The Massachusetts papers all moved to Boston and massed in the Hutchinson. The same thing is seen in Chicago in the Standard, also in St. Louis and New York. As soon as the brethren are willing to endorse the move and sustain it, the Record ought to move to New Orleans. We will not consider the removal of the Record without the approbation of the brethren. I recognize my personal obligations to the Baptists of Mississippi. I propose to put my heart and life into the paper. The recent partnership was made because it was intended for real strength.

THURSDAY NIGHT.
Convention opened by singing "Jesus Lover of my Soul." Prayer by Bro. Wright.

Bro. Webb took the chair. The special order to-night is Mississippi College. Bro. Lipsey from Coldwater, spoke first. The influence of the College goes out into many fields. We can, we ought, we must, we will sustain it. If we let everything else go down, if necessary, we must sustain the College. Here is the debt of the College before us again. It is no evil, but a good. It has a reflex influence. If these debts come justly, it ought to be a pleasure to us to pay them. By doing so, we will lay up treasures unfading. It is one of God's claims that he has on the Baptists of Mississippi. The work is increasing, as we meet one obligation God gives us another.

There are two objects in this work. To send the gospel to others and to do our own souls good. We must not view this debt as a misfortune.

Rev. B. D. Gray, spoke as follows: I know of no parallel to this work by these professors, except the Missionary on foreign shores. They do more work and get less for it than any other class of men. A mechanic or architect who spends as much time and money to educate himself would make more in a single instance than these Professors in a whole year. We do not appreciate what the missionary is doing, but we do not know the hardships he endures. We are under a debt of gratitude to these men for training our young men which you can never pay, if you empty your purse. The laity and the preachers alike owe a debt. But gratitude is too poor. We want a more substantial way.

President Hardy next addressed the body. He said: It is your duty to take care of this Institution. What right have you to say that they shall teach upon a bare pittance. You have promised to pay them and you ought to do it. I put it on the ground of duty. There are other reasons. What has it done? Who is it that composes the leading men largely in this body and in other states? You find them all over this and other States as lawyers and doctors. You find them doing honor to their College. No money will pay better than money spent here. Can you support it? 60,000 Baptists throw away every year ten times as much. If you would use one-half as much tobacco, you could support the College handsomely, or 10 cents apiece would do it. Would you be willing to live where you could not hear Baptist preaching? Let the College go down and we lose our young ministers. This is a day of progress. He who would keep abreast the day must be educated. I hope that I shall live to see it endowed. We must have faith. I would not give anything for a man who does not believe that he is going to succeed. Give me 200 men who say they will endow it and it will be done.

Eld. Z. T. Leavell spoke as follows: It has been a question Who had the metal to make the last speech. Have much respect for a man who has brass. When a boy, would have missed many a battered biscuit, if I had had less brass. Ten years ago had the brass to ask for a fair lady. Two

years ago I began my work as a financial agent. Was told that it was a hard work, but had faith in God and my brethren. There is a deficit of \$700. What will you do with it? Let us make up this amount before we go.

Dr. Quince, of Oxford: I am really astonished at the results from such small pay. All this work cost not more than \$8,000. Bro. Leavell then proceeded to take up a collection, and before the Convention adjourned the amount called for was raised.

Convention adjourned with prayer by Brother Bozeman.

FRIDAY MORNING.
Convention opened by singing "I love thy Kingdom Lord." Prayer by Bro. J. H. Whitfield. Reading of Scriptures by Dr. J. T. Zealy. Acts, 2nd chapter. I read to call attention to the fact that we are utterly dependent upon the Spirit of God. Prayer by Rev. R. L. Allen, of Vaiden. Short talks were made by Bro. Bozeman and Carroll. President Hardy called the Convention to order. On motion of Eld. W. S. Webb, Bro. Ayer, of Jacksonville, was introduced to address the Convention. He is happy to meet with the Convention. He believes his work to be a holy calling. He would not exchange places with the best of us. Mississippi is a power, or ought to be in all respects. I am determined to do my part of it. Pray for us brethren.

Bro. Spores asks him to tell of the prospects of the work in Jackson. He speaks of the change from Natchez to Jackson. He teaches seven hours a day.

Dr. Hillman read the report on General Education. Education is a power for good and evil. A. C. Crain offered an amendment endorsing the Blair Educational bill.

Elder Joe Harrall spoke in favor of the public schools. He said education had made the Anglo-Saxon race what it is, the leaders of the world's civilization.

Pastor Bozeman dissipated any expression as to the Blair Educational bill for three reasons: 1. It is none of our business as a Convention. 2. If we vote for the amendment many of us will vote for what we do not understand. 3. A great many people who do understand the bill are opposed to it.

President Webb said as an individual he favored the bill, but the real question is whether the Convention shall go into politics. He was opposed to that.

The amendment was tabled. Elder A. C. Crain spoke at length in favor of general education.

Elder J. H. Whitfield thought the subject like a worn-out coat—ready to be folded and laid away.

Prof. Johnson opposed any comparison. The report of the Board of Ministerial Education was read by Bro. A. V. Rowe.

Dr. W. Hillman, spoke as follows: I do not think the President feels a greater interest in Mississippi College than I do. I place ministerial work above any other work. What can we do without ministers? Will Ministerial Education pay? The minister is the great conservator of peace. This country could afford to hire the ministry for the sake of peace.

The ministry is the great Educational agency in our State. They elevate the masses. Our children are going to education, and if we teach them we must educate the Ministers. The Board of Ministerial Education has done much good. Bro. James Nelson raised four or five thousand dollars. Now about \$700 is given. Stop educating the ministers and the church will be like a girdled tree. When Mississippi College was in great distress the ministers who went out from the College saved it.

Bro. Geo. Whitfield said, that those aided by the Board were all over the house. God called the poor to preach. Some had a poor time. When at Newton Theological Seminary he had plenty of money; others there were poor, who copied his lectures for pay. In the class room they beat him.

Bro. C. H. Otkin, said, I recently met a man who did not take a newspaper. I told him I took a half a dozen, that it was the best investment I could make. I have recently read that the educated masses in Spain and Italy were breaking loose from Roman Catholicism. We need educated men to interpret the Gospel.

Eld. J. H. Whitfield made a speech in behalf of the Ministers' Cottage, and then proceeded to take a collection amounting to \$31.05. Mrs. Ratliff through Pastor E. B. Miller returned thanks to the Convention. The building has been let out at \$500 and she sees \$700 in hand. The Committee on Co-operation make their report through Bro. Lowrey, chairman. The committee recommended favorable relations between the Baptist State Convention and the General Association of East Mississippi, that the Con-

vention declare its territory open to all evangelists or other work from the General Association or other bodies. The report was heartily adopted.

Bro. J. H. Whitfield spoke. He has been over to the Springfield Association. Bro. Ball came down there. He did not come to win them over from the General Association, but simply to preach the gospel.

FRIDAY EVENING.
Devotional Exercises by Eld. Jobe Harrall. Prayer by Elds. Lipsey and Vandlingham.

Report on Home and Indian Missions was read by Eld. A. V. Rowe.

Dr. Tichenor, said: The work is very great. He spoke of the difficulties. The Baptists of the South formed the Board and said, go out into the field and occupy without telling us how much they would give us. This embarrasses the work. The contributions do not come regularly. On the last day, the Foreign Mission Board received \$10,000. The work is very extended and much scattered.

The Home Mission Board has taken up the Baptists of Mississippi. They undertook to carry on the work in N. O., and in Baton Rouge. Mississippi Baptists ought to give \$6,000, 10 cents apiece. The grandest opportunity the Baptist is ever had is open in N. O.; this is rapidly slipping from their grasp. If we had the money we could put 5000 children into our schools there. Baptists of Mississippi should put \$20,000 into N. O. He spoke eloquently of the coming dawn of light, when the sun of righteousness would shine into the darkness and scatter night away, and made an earnest appeal to the Baptists who are receiving such blessings from the hand of God to give their means for the extension of the Redeemer's cause.

The report on Foreign Missions was now read by Eld. Geo. Whitfield. Bro. B. D. Gray, spoke in behalf of Foreign Missions. He said: 1. That the obligation to go to Foreign fields rest upon middle aged men, as well as the young. 2. All missions are alike. 3. The way to decide the question, whether I shall go to foreign fields, is to ask where can I do the most good. I don't feel like I ought to go, is not enough; must give reasons why I should not go.

How can we get our young men to go? By informing the people. None but the best men ought to go. Keep the inferior men here, send the best talent. We need men of practical wisdom and systematic Theologians. More than this, we need scholars to translate the Bible and give a Baptist Literature.

The Convention rose and sang, "The Morning Light is breaking," after which President Hardy introduced Bro. David, who said: It affords me a great deal of pleasure after so many years to look into so many faces full of sympathy. Our mission, known as the "Yoruba mission," is in Gambia, which has a population of about 2,000,000. This is not a great desert in Central Africa, uninhabited, but Stanley found large lakes and rivers. The climate is a perpetual summer, thermometer not rising above 90 degrees, nor below 70 degrees. Africa is known as the "white man's grave." He was told this before he went. Heaven is as near Africa as America. The climate is not as fatal as said to be. The reason why it is so fatal is that they drink rum, and again the houses are not good. Loneliness is the hard thing to bear. The native is superior to the negro here: 1. Physically. 2. Mentally. He uses his mind more. 3. Morally. An adulterer or adulteress lose their heads. Stealing has the same punishment. Religiously, they are idol worshippers. They always bring their offering, or sacrifice before worship. On important occasions, they sacrifice human life.

What is being done in Africa? Politically, much Commercially, much. Religiously, the work is advancing. There are about 50 missionary societies, 6 or 7 from America, the rest from England. We are laboring at a defeating combat with other denominations. The difficulties are, 1. The language is very difficult. 2. They are uneducated. Four missionaries were recently appointed, only one can go. Need another man. Our own race must evangelize the negro race cannot do so. As much our duty to evangelize Africa as China. We have erected a school-house, have now 180 children. He told us of a great revival. It spread to the other denominations from whose ranks he gained many converts. Since that time, the Baptists have been recognized by men of influence.

FRIDAY NIGHT.
Convention called to order by President Hardy. The special order, Woman's Work, was introduced by Eld. J. H. Edwards, who read some resolutions, and after wards made a speech in their favor.

The resolutions recommended that the Convention appoint a five ladies who shall constitute the Central Committee, through whom the different ladies missionary societies in the State shall work with the State Mission Board, acting under the direction of the Board.

Brother Edwards urged its adoption because of the importance of the work done by ladies, which work may be made more efficient by organization. We have no right to shut them out. We cannot stem the tide, if we would.

Bro. Gambrell urged its adoption. Our brethren are somewhat

afraid of the Woman's Work. We must vary our plans to suit our circumstances.

This report does not mean, 1st. That women shall be preachers and public speakers. 2nd. It is not contemplated that they desire a separate organization.

This work develops our churches. The Pastor always finds a warm place in the Missionary Society. Again, we want money, and these societies bring in money. Again, the children will grow up in an atmosphere of giving.

Dr. Johnston thought that conservatism is a good thing when a man has the best thing he can get. We are too conservative. If public speaking is forbidden women, no other work is. No great work carried on without woman. A grand opportunity for Mississippi Baptists to take hold of this work.

Bro. Bozeman could not see the necessity of the resolutions. He is conservative. He thought that the women were already at work. He is in favor of the work.

4TH DAY—MORNING SESSION.

Devotional Exercises conducted by L. S. Foster. After several songs and prayers, Bro. Foster asked the brethren to speak to each other. L. E. Hall spoke of his first meeting with the Convention, and of those who had fallen to sleep.

President Hardy said that he remembered well that controversy in the pew and pulpit. There was division and strife. That has passed away, editors and preachers are now concerned to preach the gospel and this is most encouraging. W. H. Carroll spoke of the importance of looking up to Jesus. It is always bright at the worst. J. W. Lipsey said there was a necessity for controversy in past time but no necessity for it now. It is now our duty to throw ourselves fully into preaching Christ and him crucified.

SATURDAY MORNING.

After devotional exercises, President Hardy took the chair. The report on Sunday Schools was read by Bro. Cole of N. O. Bro. Cole spoke in favor of the Sunday School work.

Brother L. E. Hall and W. H. Carroll, spoke in highest terms of the report.

The Foreign Mission work being now the special order, Bro. Geo. Whitfield spoke in its behalf. He thinks the best men should go. The work is a success. Foreign missions will help other work. We have plenty of men, women and money, if we will use them.

The report on State Missions was read by Bro. Ball. Bro. Lowrey said the importance of this work need not be urged. The difficulties were great. A Secretary retiring sick at the very time when his services were needed. The Secretary has done well. We must bear in mind that other demands had to be met. The times were stringent. The first way most men retrench is to stop the religious paper. Our religious interests are our highest. We are not our own, we are bought with a price.

Brother Ball said, that he felt much embarrassed when he took hold of the work. He carried it to the Lord, has kept it there. He spoke warmly of consecration. A pitiful scene came before him of a man converted late in life, who went because he had given his best years to Satan and had only the snuff and ashes for God. He emphasized the idea that we should consecrate ourselves wholly to the work of the Lord. The sweetest peace that has ever come to his heart was when he had done a work for Christ alone. The work of developing the churches depends upon the pastors, but our pastors need development first. He explained his manner of holding meetings and instructing the people. A cash collection was taken up.

Bro. Piker spoke of his work at Baton Rouge. \$750 will complete the building. The Home Mission Board withdrew from his work and he was left on the State Mission Board with a salary of \$825. He spoke earnestly of this field, a grand opportunity to do good.

Two pictures, one of Mrs. Janie Sandford, now missionary in California, the other of Mrs. Nelson, our missionary in New Orleans were presented to the Convention. They were the work of two young ladies. The pictures were bought by the Convention at \$25 apiece, and the money given to missions. Mrs. Nelson's picture was presented to the ladies missionary societies, and the picture of Mrs. Sandford to her father, Rev. M. P. Lowrey and his family. Brother Julius Berry spoke last. Sandford said the highest terms. Brother Hartwell had said that she was the best missionary he had ever seen. He spoke highly of Brother Lowrey and wife, and recommended that the picture of Mrs. Sandford be given to them.

Bro. Lowrey read the report on temperance. He thinks that moral people are responsible for the use of whiskey. The *Argus*, the *Star* (Kosciusko) and other temperance organs throughout the State were recommended by the Convention. The report on the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary was read by Bro. Pettigrew.

President Hardy spoke on sustentation. A great many old brethren can not do the work that is to be done, and they are thrown aside. The object of the board is to supply money for their support. Only about \$350 had been given for two years. He thought that the co-operative insurance was opposed to this work. Bro. L. E. Hall, explained that it does not conflict with the work by the Board of Sustentation. The committee on nominations made the report. It was recommended that the Secretary of the State Mission Board live in Oxford, because the Board are located there.

The question was discussed with show of spirit and was finally left to the Board to elect all their officers, including the Secretary.

The Committee on Nominations

also recommended that instead of the Convention meeting at N. O., during the exhibition, in the exhibition hall, as invited to do, that Baptist meetings be held open to all.

The picture of Mrs. Sandford was now presented to Bro. M. P. Lowrey, by Rev. W. S. Webb, with suitable and appropriate address. Bro. Lowrey replied, expressing his gratitude, and giving the circumstances under which Mrs. Sandford left home. It was tender and touching and brought tears to many eyes.

The Convention adjourned with prayer, to meet again at Aberdeen, Mississippi, on Friday before the 4th Sunday in July, 1885.

Communications.

I have been here for several days in a meeting with Brother Barrett and his people. We are having a good meeting, and have joined the church, congregations large, and many asking for prayer. Brother Barrett is greatly loved by his people and is doing a splendid work.

L. E. HALL.

Ellisville, July 18th.

The State Board organized at Durant by the election of the following officers, viz: Dr. A. J. Quince, President; Dr. J. L. Johnson, first Vice-President; Captain John Powell, second Vice-President; Rev. L. Hall, Corresponding Secretary; Rev. J. H. Edwards, Recording Secretary; G. W. Leavell, Esq., Treasurer. Most of the other business was left to the next regular meeting of the Board.

J. H. EDWARDS.

Rec. Sec.

I see inquiry about Father Benson, the celebrated temperance lecturer. I am personally acquainted with Mr. Benson. I have his promise to spend some time in Mississippi soon. I have his copies of his "Fifty Years in Hell." He will let me know before he comes and I intend to stir this State before he comes with appointments for him.

L. E. HALL.

Shubuta, July 19th.

ORANGE, TEXAS.

I am helping Rev. H. C. Weymouth in a meeting here which began last night. I preached to a crowded house, and at the close of the service two united with the church by experience. Orange has about 2500 inhabitants with brilliant prospects in the near future. Brother Weymouth is laboring hard to build up our cause here. He will complete the new church building which will be an ornament to this beautiful and interesting city. Church building is usually an unthankful work, but the noble band of Baptists here will not allow Brother W. a bitter-ness of experience.

L. C. KEAYS.

July 17.

KEACH, COLLEGE.

An extract from a letter by Hon. James A. Ramsey, in *Farmville Gazette*:

"We witnessed the exercises of the College during Monday and Tuesday. All the pupils acquitted themselves excellently, and some were distinguished in their studies. In short, if our judgment be correct, the College is a grand success. It has every facility and advantage that is necessary to bring it upon an equality with any school in the South, and it has some advantages which we think others do not enjoy. The discipline, the organized system of study and instruction, and the moral training of the pupils, and the high opinion held by the community, and President Coleman seems to be a man, especially adapted to the work of his position. With untiring energy and a kind and graceful firmness he blends the happy faculty of inspiring all around him with noble and persistent effort. Our people who desire to give their sons and daughters a collegiate education ought by all means to patronize this school, which is a home institution within our own State and which is unexcelled by any beyond its borders."

P. S.—Send catalogue to Bro. T. N. Coleman, President.

Keach, La., July 13, 1884.

July 21, 1884.

IMPRESSIONS OF MAJOR PENN.

With hundreds of others I was irresistibly drawn to Grenada to hear the great evangelist, Major Penn. As is usual with such one, the first I saw was a true disappointment. There was nothing as critic, or spiritual, or heavenly-looking about the man. On the contrary, he is one of the finest specimens of physical manhood that I ever saw. Apparently about fifty, with very large frame, massive head, flowing grey beard, dark eye like no other eye but an eagle's, a grave dignity that would be sternness were he other than a Christian—there is that about him which would suggest judicial crime rather than gospel truth. The man has a rare quality of expression, and the moment it falls on the ear we feel that there is one who could command Senate chambers to listening awe. Yet he is not called an orator. He chooses to talk to the people in a face to face manner. His brow speaks nature, intellect, and before we have heard a word, we are satisfied that he can cope with the foremost men in our pulpits. But his language is commonplace

